

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 12/12/06, 7:15 to 9:30 PM, Town Hall Annex 1st Floor Conference Room

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener

Members and Associates Present: Ed Starr, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Laura Wiener, Chuck Pappas, Howard Muise, Mike Rademacher, Jeff Maxtutis, Theresa DeBenedictis

1. Administration.
 - Added to list of Active/Planned TAC projects are:
 - Ravine/Academy/ Irving Parking (see e-mail from Sharon Shaloo to Marie Krepelka dated Nov. 7, 2006) New parking policy should apply once it is adopted.
 - Crosswalk at Warren/Franklin Street, referred to Crosswalk Working Group.
 - Cutting back foliage at entrance to Thorndike Field—Theresa will look at it.
2. Parking Policy/Procedure. Reviewed Flow Chart. Modified to include abutter requests (to Public Safety). For adoption, survey will be sent to abutters, one per household. More than 50% must respond and of those, more than two-thirds (2/3) must favor the change to single side of the street parking, or to restriction on length of time for parking. Motion to approve “One Sided Parking” process, with change to include abutter initiated request. Voted unanimously. Motion to approve Process for Abutter Request for Parking restriction. Voted unanimously. Proposal now goes to Selectmen.
3. Public Comments/Downing Square. Carlene Hempel, of 15 Park Avenue Extension told the Committee about a planned neighborhood meeting tomorrow regarding changes to Downing Square. Elisabeth noted that the survey on Westminster Ave one-way is still open. Over 40% have responded. Frequent concerns mentioned are traffic volume, speed on Lowell and Westminster, ice on Westmoreland (steep hill), Lowell traffic volume, church and school parking. Also discussed was traffic that backs up from Mass. Ave./Park Ave. light in the AM commuter period that often blocks Downing Square. UPS store—vans sit on Park Ave.. Dramatic increase in traffic on north/south routes over the past 20 years (Pleasant, Lake, Park, Jason). East/west routes more stable. Recent meeting with Town Manager (Ed, Elisabeth and Jeff). Option to modify Bow Street— but land taking or swapping would be required to make changes. Parallel parking and bulbout (Park Ave. northbound) will be in Phase 1, Westminster and Bow could be in phase 2. Elisabeth noted that the businesses have generally not been positive about the proposed Park Ave parking changes.
4. Minutes. Amendment proposed by Ed, to change in #3, Parking Policy Motion, to add “side of street to be determined by Departments of Public Works and Public Safety”. Approved with change, unanimously.
5. Mass. Ave. Corridor Phase 1. Four proposals were received for the design work, from VHB, Fay, Spofford & Thorndike, Vollmer, and Greenman, Pedersen and Associates. Meeting to review proposals scheduled for Jan. 3. Review Committee is Ed, Scott, Jeff, Laura, Andy West (ARB) and Tony Lionetta (Capital Planning). . The Town Manager suggested a Guidance Committee to oversee the design process, to include TAC representatives (Scott and Ed), businesspeople, and others.

6. Irving/Pleasant intersection. BSC did a review for the Town. Observations matched Jeff's. Town is changing contractors, from Tristate to Republic. Has been difficult to get their attention, but should improve with new contractor. Theresa will assist BSC in getting into signal box.
7. Dickson/Wheeler. Stop signs were installed on Dickson, but because the corner radius is so large, one sign is not visible. The Wheeler corners are better defined. Recommend to Board of Selectmen to move stop signs from Dickson to Wheeler. Voted unanimously.
8. Safe Routes to School. Mike reported that he has not yet met with Bishop principal. Representative from the Police Department is needed. Dallin parents have raised an issue regarding special needs vans parking in the drop off area, blocking access. More signage and more enforcement are needed. Jeff will follow up.
State Executive Office of Transportation is looking for consultants to help them with Safe Routes to School program. Funding of \$1.3 million expected per year for 2 years in federal money to work with communities on sidewalks, crosswalks, signage.
9. Bylaw Change Update. Laura reported on discussion with ARB regarding two proposed bylaw changes. TAC proposed eliminating allowing compact sized parking spaces. ARB favors reducing the allowance from 40% to 20% (by special permit), and increasing the size of compact spaces from 7.5'x 15' to 8'x16'. TAC endorsed the change. TAC also proposed changing the Table of Use Regulations to allow shared vehicle parking in the Residential zone, in order to allow it in the municipal lot. ARB wants to allow it by special permit only. TAC response to allow ARB to do this by whatever means.
10. Board of Selectmen on 1/8. The TAC will present the proposed Parking Policy to BoS on January 8th. Also School Zones policy and other requested recommendations. Theresa asked about timing of blinking lights in School Zones. Supposed to be from half an hour before school to half an hour after, but not sensitive to changes such as early dismissal days.
11. Town News. Theresa reported on recent neighborhood meeting re. Summer Street reconstruction. Tentative completion date of Nov. 27, 2007. DPW Director position is posted. Probably filled in early February. Then Town Engineer position will be filled. Laura reported that the proposal for the Taylor Rental site in Arlington Heights has been resubmitted to ARB, and was recently approved.
12. Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Handouts:

Ed's Meeting Package:

Agenda, Letter from Marie Krepelka re. "Old Parmenter School", and e-mail from Sharon Shaloo of Ravine Street, copy of comment letter re. Green Line Extension to Secretary Robert Golledge of EOEA, Active/Planned TAC Projects (12/12/06), Current Minor Project Rotation List (12/12/06), BoS requests, Outstanding Voted Actions, Parking Policy Flow Charts and Issues (12/12/06), e-mail from Sam Offei-Addo re. Pleasant St/Irving Update.

Laura – Minutes from 11/14/06, Proposed zoning bylaw changes.

Elisabeth—Measurements, Park & Mass. Ave.